## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Interns pplication No PCT/IB2004/052786

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G01N21/31 G01N21/27 G01J3/28 G01N21/64 G01N21/65 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 GO1N GO1J Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° Relevant to claim No. GB 1 237 547 A (STANDARD TELEPHONES AND X 1-12. CABLES LTD) 30 June 1971 (1971-06-30) 14-16 page 1, line 68 - column 3, line 4 X GB 2 334 097 A (\* BG PLC; \* BG TRANSCO 1-12,PLC; \* TRANSCO PLC; \* LATTICE INTELLECTUAL 14-16 PROP) 11 August 1999 (1999-08-11) abstract; figure 1 US 6 198 531 B1 (MYRICK MICHAEL L ET AL) X 1-11,14-16 6 March 2001 (2001-03-06) cited in the application column 6, line 38 - column 8, line 55 WO 2004/057284 A (KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS P,X 1-11, ELECTRONICS N.V; HENDRIKS, ROBERT, F., M) 14-16 8 July 2004 (2004-07-08) page 7, line 7 - line 11; figures 1,3 12,13 P,A Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the International "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention citation or other special reason (as specified) cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such docu-\*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means in the art. \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed \*&\* document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the International search 06/04/2005 21 March 2005 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Tabellion, M Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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